

CLEOBURY MORTIMER RURAL DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1 9 2 5

CLEOBURY MORTIMER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances and administration, and Vital Statistics of the district for the year ending December 31st 1925.

The Memorandum of the Ministry of Health, on the Annual Reports for the year, directs that a Survey Report be prepared dealing with: (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of Public Health; (b) The extent and character of the changes made during the period in the public Health Services of the Area; (c) Any further action of importance in the organization and development of public health services contemplated by the local authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The district covers an area of 44.336 acres, and lies to the east and south of the Clee Hill. It is very hilly with many steep gradients, rising from 200 O.D. in the South to 1200 ft. O.D. on the West side. It is a dry and bracing district with good natural drainage to the Severn and the Rea. Agriculture is the leading industry, and there are coal pits at Highley, Kinlet and on the Clee Hill. Stone Quarries employ a large proportion of the men living in the Coreley parish.

The population at the 1911 Census was 6976, and at the Census 1921 it had risen to 7280.

The Registrar General's estimate for 1925 7,693

The greatest part of this increase in population has been at the mining village of Highley, where the garden village was provided by a public Company. In most of the other parishes there has been a slight fall in population.

The Census of 1921 gives the number of inhabited houses as 1579 and the number of families or separate occupiers 1591.

The Rateable Value is £43,275 and a penny rate produces about £200.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Births (Legitimate	146	72	74)
(Illegitimate.	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>) <u>Birth Rate 19.7</u>
	<u>152</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>76</u>)

The Birth-rate 19.7 is very considerably below the average of the previous five years, which was 24.1

The rate has always been an index of the prosperity of the Coal and Stone industries in the area, which during recent years have had periods of depression.

The Birth-rate for England and Wales for the year was 18.3



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The Deaths numbered 72, 40 being males and 32 females, the resulting death-rate is 9.3. This is the third year in succession, that this rate has been remarkably low. The average for the previous five years was 11.5 and the rate for England Wales for the year 12.2. The chief causes of death were Measles 1, Whooping Cough 1, Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 2. Other tuberculous diseases 2. Cancer 13. Diabetes 2. Cerebral haemorrhage 4. Heart Disease 10. Arterio-sclerosis 1. Bronchitis 4. Pneumonia 2. Nephritis 1. Congenital debility 5. Deaths from Violence 3. Other defined diseases 21.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was 52 based on 8 deaths of children under 12 months of age. There was no death of illegitimate infants. The causes to which the eight deaths were assigned were:- Prematurity 3: Congenital Debility 2: Bronchitis 2: Convulsions 1: It may be confidently asserted that nearly every one of these deaths was preventible, greater care of the mother's health prior to the birth of the child being chiefly indicated.

The rate of 1925 compares very favourably with the average of the previous five years, viz: 61, and also with the rate for England and Wales for the year, 75.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council:

1. Tuberculosis. a. Shirlett Sanatorium.
 b. Prees Heath Sanatorium for advanced cases
 c. Shropshire Orthopaedic, Oswestry.
2. Maternity. Beds at Shrewsbury.
3. Childrens. (a). Home for Ailing Babies, Wellington.
 (b). Orthopaedic.
4. Fever. Nil.
5. Smallpox. At Ludlow.
6. Others, Bridgnorth and Kidderminster Infirmarys.

The County Council have made arrangements for the admission of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children into the Mrs. Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton.

Ambulance facilities: None locally. The County Council ambulance removes cases of Tuberculosis.

CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.

- Maternity and Child Welfare. A Centre was started last year at Highley.
- Day Nurseries. Nil.
- School Clinic. ?
- Tuberculosis Clinic. One has been commenced at Highley.
- V.D. At Shrewsbury.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Bytheway the Surveyor is Sanitary Inspector and during the year was appointed Meat Inspector.

A contribution is received to the salary of the Medical Officer of Health from the Exchequer.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(d) General. A nurse-midwife was appointed to work in the parishes of Hopton Wafers, part of Cleobury Mortimer, Farlow, Cleeton St. Mary and Silvington in 1923 and this year a district nurse has been secured for Highley by a local Nursing Association.

(b) For Infectious Diseases: The arrangements under which the County Council provide a nurse for visiting cases in epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenza, still continue. They also nurse cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum in the home, but all severe cases are sent to Shrewsbury Eye Hospital, by ambulance, the mother accompanying the child when possible.

MIDWIVES. There are none employed by the Local Authority. Nine are now practising in the district.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act and parts of the Public Health Amendment Act 1890 are in force in the District, together with bye-laws relating to New Buildings, (1913) Slaughter-houses and Nuisances.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER. The public supplies at Cleobury Mortimer and Highley have been maintained satisfactorily. No complaints have been received recently in regard to the supply at the Clee View Terrace or Garden Village, Highley.

Some groups of houses on the outskirts of Highley are without a satisfactory supply; they are dependent on wells, where adequate arrangements for the disposal of sewage cannot be made owing to the absence of a sewer.

The indifferent supply to the scattered cottages on the Clee Hill has been referred to in previous reports. A joint scheme to meet the needs of this area and the Clee Hill district in Ludlow Rural District would be of great benefit to a large number of householders. It is clearly holding up all building on the Hill.

Private supplies at three farms have been improved during the year, and one sample from a new supply was submitted for analysis and proved satisfactory.

RIVERS & STREAMS. The sewage outfall at Cleobury Mortimer finds its way into the river Rea. All evidence of it disappears with normal flow in two to three hundred yards down. About thirty water closets are connected with the Sewer.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

The sewage outfall works at Highley appear to be working satisfactorily, but constant supervision is necessary, if they are to maintain their efficiency and arrangements should be made for frequent inspection of them by the Engineer.

The drainage was reconstructed at six houses during the year.

The improvement in the scavenging at Highley has been maintained, both in regard to the pail closets at Cleve View Terrace and the ashpits in the village; their proximity to the houses make this very necessary.

A public system of scavenging in Cleobury Mortimer is a sanitary refrain long overdue, the present method of leaving it to tenants, leads to many undesirable accumulations having to be dealt with.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

I have visited all parts of the district along with the Sanitary Inspector. A total of 124 houses were visited, and notices served in 10 cases, and in others verbal directions were given for repairs. In 3 instances the water supply was objectionable, new drains were required at six and new closets at three, Fifteen houses were damp or in a bad sanitary condition and three were overcrowded.

Ten informal notices were served and six were complied with.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary condition and water supplies of the elementary schools are receiving attention from the School Medical Officers.

Non-notifiable infectious disease was much less prevalent than usual, a mild form of Influenza being the only one to interfere sufficiently with school attendance, as to make closure necessary: Kinlet and Neen Sollars being closed for a day or two in February.

HOUSING.

I. General housing conditions in the area:-

- (1) Some improvement in cottages has taken place during the year, but progress is slow.
- (2) I reported to the Council during the year, after visiting many of the parishes along with the Inspector, Mr. Bytheway, the urgent need for Cottages in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Coreley, Stottesdon and Farlow, on the grounds of overcrowding and the demand for cottages in them, which necessitates the men living long distances from their work. The Council came to no decision on the matter, Most of the cottages are let at very low rents, and the average wages too are low. It is difficult to meet the demand without a considerable charge on the rates. If a few were built every year, it would be a great advantage and not unduly burden the ratepayer. It has to be realized that at any rate for some years to come, there is very little

prospect of the private builder meeting the demand, and therefore the duty is on the local authority. It would be a national calamity if healthy rural districts like this, become gradually depopulated on account of the lack of housing accommodation. Most of the country parishes have shown a steady fall in population in recent years.

II. OVERCROWDING. Only three cases of overcrowding were reported during the year, much less than in some recent years. More than a quarter of the population are living in two bed-roomed cottages and in a number of them there are six or more persons living. The average of rooms per person is less in Cleobury Mortimer Rural District than in any Rural District in Shropshire according to the last Census.

In Goreley, Hopton Wafers and Farlow there is very obvious overcrowding due to shortage of houses.

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

1. (a) The general standard of housing in the rural parts of the areas is fair. Very few remain that require closing. Improvement in drainage, water supplies and ventilation are the greatest needs.

2. General action taken as regards unfit houses under:-

(a) Public Health Act.

All the notices served were under this Act and as a rule the work is carried out, although somewhat slowly.

(b) Housing Acts. Nil.

3. The Chief difficulty in getting houses put in repair is the low rents and the high cost of the work required. Many owners prefer to sell the houses, than expend money on which they will get no return.

4. The water-supply on the Clee Hill has always been a difficulty. It has to be carried long distances for drinking purposes, and some of it is not very suitable owing to the iron in it. The scattered position of the houses and the fact that an ample supply for the district could not be provided from any one of the Springs has always prevented any action being taken by the local Authority.

IV. There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

HOUSING STATISTICS for the YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

a. Total.	-	-	3
b. With State assistance under the Housing Acts.			
(1) By Local Authority.	-		0
(2) By other persons.	-		3

I. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects.	-	19
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing (Inpsection of District regulations) 1910.	-	6
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	-	6
II. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	-	6
III. Action under Statutory Powers.		
A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act. 1925.	-	0
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	-	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-		
(a) by owner.	-	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner.	-	0
C Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, 15 of the Housing Act 1925.	-	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	-	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing Orders were made.	-	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the houses having been rendered fit.	-	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	-	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a). Milk Supply. There are ten Cow-keepers and milk-sellers on the Register, they have received 40 visits and five notices were served in regard to overcrowding and want of cleanliness and these were all complied with. The Milk supply of the district is very satisfactory, both in regard to quality distribution, many small-holders having cows and making butter.

The question of Tuberculous Milk and Cattle is being

dealt with by the County Authorities.

No licenses were applied for for the sale of Milk under special designations.

(b) MEAT. The Sanitary Inspector Mr. Bytheway has been appointed by the Council as Meat Inspector and is attending the course of Meat Lectures and demonstrations arranged by the County Council at Shrewsbury.

No meat was condemned by the Inspector as unsound.

Private Slaughterhouses:-

	<u>In 1920</u>	<u>In January</u> <u>1925</u>	<u>In December</u> <u>1925.</u>
Registered.	3	3	3
Licensed.	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

The Bakehouses and other premises where food is prepared have been regularly inspected.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	<u>1920 - 1924</u>				
	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>
Diphtheria.	16	13	7	7	18
Scarlet Fever.	10	4	2	5	2
Erysipelas.	4	2	2		
Pneumonia.	9	2	3		
Encephalitis					
Lethargica.	1	1			1
Puerperal Fever.		1			
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum.			1	2	

Diphtheria has been present each year, sometimes occurring sporadically and in three years in small epidemics. Many of the cases were merely carriers found as the result of systematic swabbling of a school.

In 1923 four cases occurred in one house as a result of a girl being sent home ill from service in Birmingham. She died in two days but not before she had infected three other children, who were promptly removed to Hospital at Ludlow. In 1920 the greater number of the cases were apparently Influenzal. The swabs taken immediately after my visit of enquiry all proved negative.

SCARLET FEVER. There was no serious outbreak during the period.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA. Two of these cases were removed to Hospital at Kidderminster and one was rapidly fatal.

There were 27 notifications received in 1925 viz:-
Diphtheria 2: Scarlet Fever 4: Pneumonia 15: Tuberculosis 16.

There was no apparent connection between any of the cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, they occurred in different parishes at intervals throughout the year and were all very mild.

The arrangements made by the County Council for the examination of specimens by Birmingham University Bacteriological Department continues and is taken full advantage of.

Ninety six specimens were taken during the year, Bacillus Diphtheria was present in 5 and absent in 82, and Tubercle bacilli were present in 3 and absent in 6.

The Schick & Dick tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were not used during the year as far as I am aware.

There are no special facilities available in the area for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. I think this work might be carried out at the Workhouse at Small expense, the cases being very rare.

Disinfection after Infectious Diseases is carried out by means of Formalin Vapour. No return cases have occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1925.

<u>Age Period.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1			2				2	
5	2		1					
10		1						
15	1	1	1	1		1		
20								
25	1	1	1					
35	1							
45	1							
55		1			1			
65 +								
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	

Of the 10 Pulmonary cases two died during the year and three received Sanatorium treatment in Shirlett. There were also six non-pulmonary cases with two deaths during the year and one was treated at the Bridgnorth Infirmary.

During the years 1920 - 1924 the number of notifications and deaths from Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were as follows:-

	<u>New cases</u>		<u>Deaths</u>	
	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-pulmonary</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-pulmonary</u>
1920	11	4	6	2
1921	13	4	10	1
1922	8	2	1	2
1923	11	3	3	1
1924	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>51</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>7</u>

Average of
years 1920- 10.2
24.

3.4

4.8

1.4

It will be seen from above table, that the deaths for the period averaged nearly 50% of the notifications. The average number of notifications in a year is about double what it was when Tuberculosis was first made notifiable in 1912: this is undoubtedly due to more complete notification and not to any increase in the disease.

Miners, Quarrymen and Farmworkers appear to be equally affected, and housewives and domestic servants amongst women.

In all these classes of worker there is of course a larger proportion of the population engaged than in any other and therefore it does not follow that they are more susceptible, when engaged in these occupations.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED E. WHITE.

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the Year ending 31st December, 1925, in the Cleobury Mortimer Rural Sanitary District.

a	Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey.	-	124
a	Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.		
	Number of legal notices sent.	-	nil
	Number of informal notices sent.	-	10
	Number of such notices complied with.	-	6
	Number of letters written.	-	122

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES:-

(a)	Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease.	-	4
(b)	Deficient or objectionable water supply.	-	1
(c)	New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended.	-	6
(d)	New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction.	-	3
(e)	Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition.	-	15
(f)	Offensive accumulations of all kinds.	-	24
(g)	Animals so kept as to be a nuisance.	-	nil
(h)	Houses overcrowded.	-	3

	Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis).	-	4
	Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis.	-	1
	Privies converted to water closets.	-	nil
	Privies converted to earth closets.	-	10
	Plans for new houses passed.	-	3
	Certificates issued for water supply to new houses.	-	nil
	Houses connected to public water supply.	-	nil
	Repairs to public pumps and wells.	-	nil
	New public wells.	-	nil
	Private wells re-constructed or improved.	-	3
	Houses connected to public sewerage.	-	nil
	Lengths of new sewers laid.	-	nil
	Lengths of new water mains laid.	-	nil

Proceedings before Magistrates for Nil.

W. A. BYTHEWAY

Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for
the Year 1925 for the Rural District of Cleobury
Mortimer. on the administration of the Factory and
Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories,
Workshops and Workplaces.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of</u>	
	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries).	62	2

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Number of Defects</u>	
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:-		
Want of cleanliness.	4	4
Want of ventilation.	nil	
Overcrowding.	nil	
Want of drainage of floors.	nil	
Other nuisances.	1	1
Sanitary) unsuitable or defec-		
Accommodation) tive.	1	1
) not separate for sexes.	nil	
Offences under the Factory & Workshop Acts:-		
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101).	nil	
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).	nil	
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

